

Szegda Farm Management Committee

Wednesday November 11, 2015

Present: Tom McGrath, Gary King, Nancy Schwartz, and guests David Bull and Bob Ulkus

The meeting opened at 7:02 PM.

The minutes of 9/10/15 were approved.

Audience of Citizens: Bob Ulkus, David Bull

Old Business:

Note that we have changed the meeting date to the 2nd Wednesday every other month.

Budget 2016 – Tom met with Natasha Nau, town administrator, and George Murphy, DPW, on 11/6/15 to discuss proposed future improvements and budget concerns for Szegda Farm. Prior to the meeting Tom sent them an email detailing the work and improvements done at Szegda Farm this year and future proposed improvements. George and Natasha asked SFMC to put together real estimates for the upcoming budget for items such as materials for upgrading the fencing around the community garden and shelving/partitioning the pole barn storage area. After discussion, we will also include raised bed materials, and piping/self-draining hydrant/other materials needed to bury water lines outside the garden. DPW requests for next year include spraying and cutting along the road and rock wall to control weeds and poison ivy, filling holes and low spots, improving access road to the back ag field, and removing rocks.

Community Garden Report: Bob reported that this, the 7th year, was a very successful one. The weather conditions were favorable and the water tank really made a difference in producing bumper crops in the mostly dry weather. Kudos to Ron Szegda for the tank donation and DPW for quickly installing it and keeping it filled. At this time the plots have been cleaned up, except for a few late crops. DPW has delivered a final load of wood chips for the year which volunteers will be using for garden path maintenance.

Lawn Mowers and equipment: DPW will be servicing the mowers and equipment before winter storage in the pole barn. DPW said they would supply a gas card next season to be used for filling the gas cans for the mower and tiller. We would need to keep and turn in receipts for its use.

Water pump: George will share with us the make and model of the electric pump for our approval before purchase. There was a discussion on what capacity should be. The goal is still to have it in place before winter.

Water tank: We plan to have volunteers run the electric pump periodically to fill the tank.

Steward Report: On Oct. 23 the Boy Scouts worked on the signage and posts on the trails. Gary reported that the trails were in good shape and 2/3 have been blown to remove leaves. Litter has been a problem on the upper lot and on some of the trails.

Agricultural usage of Ag units 5 & 6: We will investigate the cost of having these chemically treated to get rid of weeds as a first step in preparing these for future agricultural use. This may also be added to the budget request.

Other: After some discussion we decided not to pursue having the pole barn painted. DPW has said that they will plow the upper and lower parking lots this winter for sledding and skiing access.

Gifford's Brook Habitat improvement – gate and parking improvement from Rte 87 – Discussed moving the gate further from the road to allow Ron space in front of the gate for his equipment. The Szegda side of the brook is overgrown with weeds making access to the brook difficult. Tom will reach out to DEEP to review the Gifford brook trout habitat potential improvements.

New Business:

The Bolton Conservation Commission runs a yearly photo contest and produces a calendar which promotes the town and produces a modest profit. Tom will explore putting out a joint CCAG and Szegda Farm open space calendar for 2017 similar to Bolton's.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Next Regular meeting: January 13, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Schwartz, secretary

Received: November 17, 2015
At: 8:12 am
Attest: Gabein M. Hensford
Town Clerk/ Assistant Town Clerk